



HAMILTON NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter October 2020

Life is for learning.....learn for life

Meetings

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 21st at 10 am (meet and greet at 9.45 am) at the Church Hall of Chartwell Co-operating Church located on the corner of Comries Road and Belmont Avenue (opposite Chartwell Mall).

Following the guest speaker's presentation, we have morning tea/coffee and a chance to chat.

Next speaker: Prof Daniel Zirker

Professor Zirker's tentative topic is: "The US Presidential Election, 2020: Democracy in a Populist Era." "The US Presidential election is a mysterious process to many New Zealanders. This presentation will discuss some of the background thinking in the creation of the Electoral College, as well as the conduct and mechanics of elections, and conclude with comments on the unusual presidency of Donald J. Trump."

Meet and greet: New Zealand History and Memoirs groups

Morning tea helpers: Paul Etheredge and some volunteers, please.

President's report

We're all hoping that our meeting on 21st October will be able to go ahead as planned. However we need to take reasonable precautions bearing in mind the vulnerability of our members.

To reduce congestion the foyer doors will be open as well as the side door from the car park.

- If you have the tracking app on your phone please use it to sign in. There will be QR codes at both entrances.
- Otherwise please use the sign in sheets
- Hand sanitizer will be available at both entrances.
- Please feel free to wear a mask if you wish
- Please stay home if you are unwell



It will be wonderful to be able to listen to a topical speaker, Dan Zirker. Who knows what the political situation will be in the US by then!

Neil Curgenvan has agreed to be our Health and Safety co-ordinator. He will be explaining the procedures at the start of the meeting. This is particularly important as it is so long since we have met at the church.

The committee has decided to defer the defibrillator training to next year, anyone else who would like to take advantage of this please contact Carol Carr.

carolevelyn49@icloud.com

I recently attended the inaugural meeting of the second garden group instigated by Graham Harrison. It was heart warming to see the friendliness and enthusiasm of the group. They already have a convenor and their first meeting organised!

The trip to Maungatautari is scheduled to go ahead on 28th October, many thanks to Noeline Alcorn and Anne Devlin for organising this. Hopefully next year we can organise more trips and events. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Stay safe and well.

Alison Fagan. President U3A Hamilton.

Groups

Interest group news

U3A Wine Appreciation Group

Our group has been meeting again since Lockdown.

We taste on a theme and we have tasted wines from South Australia, the Wairarapa and the Auckland region to "support local". We usually have a cheese of interest.

There are no vacancies as our nine members seem happy to come regularly with this number.

The Armchair Astronomy Group

Our group met again after a gap of some time. As usual, discussion was quite animated and often hilarious. Clearly, with our topics normally being so heavy and serious it's nice to have a sense of humour and enjoy it.

Items discussed included:

- How did the Earth get so much water?
- Radiation on the Moon is more hazardous than previously thought.
- Is the Universe really expanding?
- If time stops for something travelling at the speed of light, does a photon of light experience time?
- We always reach for the stars.

Brian

The Computer Group

This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30am. We explore a topic each time, plus issues members may have.

We look at our use of everyday technology including smartphones, tablets and laptops.

New members are welcome, please contact Carol at: carolevelyn49@yahoo.com

Natural Environment Group

Barbara organised an interesting visit to Hukanui School in September.

Hukanui has been an Enviro School for more than 20 years. Enviro Schools have an environmental action based programme where young people are empowered to design and lead sustainability projects in their schools, neighbourhoods and

country. We were shown round in two groups, each guided by two friendly and informative students. We were impressed by the range of facilities and activities that the school has. These included a gully walk, the living room and living kitchen designed by students and incorporating energy efficient and environmental sustainability features, gardens featuring plants from different environments, vegetable gardens and free range chickens.

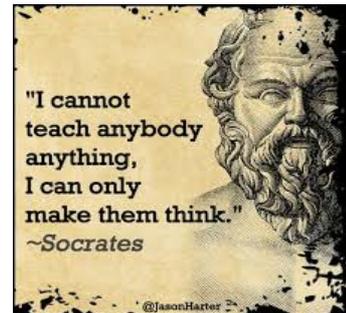
Neil Fagan

Philosophy Group

New convenor needed for next year.

The Philosophy Group has been meeting on the first Wednesday each month at Gorahm Milbank's home from 10.00am to 11.30am. We also socialise for a wee while afterwards. There are seven in the group.

We have operated with no expectation of an academic background; people bring their own ideas about life and its meanings and use these to contribute to the discussions.



If you would be interested in considering convening this group, please contact Gorham. He will happily explain what we have been doing; maybe you could attend a session or two. He is willing to provide some support to a new convenor for a couple of sessions.

Phone 855 4757 or email milbank@xtra.co.nz

Current Affairs Group

This Group meets from 1.30 to 3.00pm on the first and third Fridays each month in the Boardroom at the Celebrating Age Centre.

There is a charge of \$2 per session, and members can choose to attend one or both sessions.

There is room for three or four new members to join; please contact the convenor first. A wide range of topics is addressed bringing forth many and varied views and lively discussions. You will be able to nominate and introduce topics if you wish.



Gorham Milbank Phone 855 4757 email
milbank@xtra.co.nz

The original Book discussion Group has now given itself a new name: they are now the 'Page Turners'.

New groups

Gardening Group 2

Our first official gathering of the new Gardening Group was on October 6th, hosted by Elaine. All members were in attendance.

Elaine's inner city garden makes full use of the area surrounding her home. From her use of black mondo grass, buxus and teucrium to create a terraced hedge surrounding a magnolia tree, to topiary bay leaf trees and a flourishing vegetable garden this is a garden to be appreciated.

Carol

Book Discussion Group

We held our first meeting at Jam cafe but the venue proved to be very noisy. We will now meet in members' homes on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1.30pm

We discussed various options for the format of this new group. It was decided that we would each bring the book/s we are currently reading, or one that we would like to discuss, to each meeting. It was agreed that we would limit membership to eight. The current group of six worked well.

Sheila Emslie

The Antique and Collectables Group

A group was formed at a meeting earlier this year and will have its first working meeting on 9 October. When a small group met to discuss whether there was sufficient common ground we decided to go ahead on the following basis:
Meetings would be from 1.30-3.00pm on the second Friday of the month;
Meetings would be in member's homes or involve visits to places of interest e.g. antique shops.

There would be an emphasis on increasing knowledge of collecting areas – using expertise from within and outside the group.

We thought that an ideal number would be eight and have now reached that.

There are matters still to discuss and we will be feeling our way for some time.

Contact Graham Harrison, Groups Co-ordinator, if you wish to be put on a waiting list.

We have a programme for the rest of 2020, and will be making decisions on early 2021 meetings and whether it is feasible to increase our numbers on 9 October.

Paul Etheredge

Potential groups

Are you interested in self-publishing?

Would you like to meet with other people who are hoping to self publish their writing in the near or distant future?

I would like to convene a group of U3A members who could meet together and explore topics such as formatting your writing, finding a publisher, choosing a type and style of book or publication, getting ready for printing, proofreading etc: etc:

I see this as a group that will meet perhaps once a fortnight for a limited duration - perhaps three months only.

If you are interested in learning about or have some experience with self publishing please contact Janet Hanfling janet.hanfling@xtra.co.nz I hope we can meet together at the U3A meeting on 21 October and discuss this proposal.

If you like 'making music' we have a new group just for you. We are looking for members who would like to meet and play for each other. I'll bet there are lots of you out there who would be great on the keyboard. We might even have the odd woodwind player as well.

If you are interested, send me an email and we will see if we have enough for a small group.

Please let me know if you have any other ideas.

Graham Harrison

gfharrison26@gmail.com

855 6217

Members

We currently have a membership of 277.

Most people enrol and then pay their subscription through the website which is very encouraging. However, a recurrent problem has arisen with people who have paid a subscription but not actually enrolled (7 at present). So we have their money, usually a surname – but no contact details for us to email, telephone, write or send a newsletter. If any of your friends have recently joined U3A, please ask them if

they have heard from us, because if they haven't it may be that they haven't actually enrolled. NB: We do have forms available at monthly meetings, for anyone who likes to complete them in person.

[We welcome new members - January - September 2020](#)

Ceridwyn Parr, Sylvia Hill, Judy Owen, Andrea Donnison, Kath Hamilton, Patricia Dare, Zewdi Yohannes, Sharon Martin, Karen & Steven Duxfield, Mary Boss, Alan Kenny, Raewyn Jackman, Jane Muggeridge, Judith Kelleher, Carolyn Sutherland, Michael Denigan, Shardell Quinn, Anne Lumsden, Rena Carte, Maggie Swain, Jane Muggeridge, Bob & Anthea Simcock, Katherine & Martin Lawrence.

Not surprisingly, the number of enrolments this year is down (29) compared with 2019 when we welcomed an average of 10 new members each month. I encourage you all to recommend Hamilton U3A to your friends and invite them to attend a meeting as a visitor at any time before committing to joining our organisation.

Name Tags

If you have a name tag, please wear it! If you don't, please check the rather large number of unclaimed name tags we have on hand. (If you've lost yours, 'fess up and see me to arrange a replacement.)

Contact Details

If any of your details have changed, please let me know so that our database may be kept current. Email me on hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com or telephone 849 0242 (evenings best)

Judith Hickman, Membership & Database

Committee news

Our Treasurer Chrissie Williams will not be available at the meeting on the 21st October. If anyone has a payment to make (e.g. a subscription), please use our bank account - 03-1559-0030619-00 or you could pay Anne Devlin at our next meeting. Subscriptions for existing members are due early next year. If you have any other queries, please feel free to contact Chrissie by email.

TreasurerHamiltonNZU3A@gmail.com, or phone 027 6739 286

Transport/Mobility Assistance

There is a concern that some current or potential members of U3A may be deterred from attending our meetings because of transportation and/or mobility issues. The Committee would like to know if this is an issue for you or for anyone you know, and whether there are members who would be prepared to help.

If you are able to offer assistance with transport or mobility, or if you require transport or mobility assistance, please email hamiltonnzu3a@gmail.com giving:

- your name
- the area in which you live,
- an email address (or phone number)
- what help is required/ available
- your permission to share this with another U3A member who is able to help you or is able to provide this assistance.

Special Message

Dr Bob Allbrook

Dr Bob Allbrook who was an early, active and long serving member of U3A in Hamilton died on September 18. Bob was born and educated in England. He was a soil scientist and came to the University of Waikato after working at a university in Malaysia.

He joined U3A during its first year of existence in 1995 and founded an interest group on soil fertility during that year. In June 1996 he was elected to be the second president of U3A, a position which he held for two years until June 1998. After that he remained on the committee for nearly 20 years until 2015. During that time he held the position of secretary for a period and then was treasurer for a number of years. Also during most of that time Bob continued to be an interest group convenor. This included groups on soil science and the current affairs group. It is recorded in the minutes that he acted as guide and provided commentary on soils and land forms on a number of bus trips and excursions.

Clearly, Bob's contribution to U3A was very significant over a long period. We extend our sympathy to his family.